

CLAIMS

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1. An adhesive composition which lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker comprising, on a dry weight basis, from about 50 to about 98% of an alkyl acrylate monomer and/or alkyl methacrylate monomer and from about 2 to about 50% of a polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomer.
2. The adhesive of claim 1 wherein the polymerizable nitrogen containing monomer is selected from the group consisting of an N-substituted acrylamide monomer, an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer, vinylacetamides, nitriles, or mixtures thereof.
3. The adhesive of claim 2 wherein the nitrile is methacrylonitrile or 2-cyanoethylacrylate.
4. The adhesive of claim 1 which has a Tg of less than about 10°C.
5. The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the alkyl acrylate monomer is 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and/or n-butyl acrylate.
6. The adhesive of claim 5 wherein the nitrogen-containing monomer is an N-substituted acrylamide monomer and/or an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer.

7. The adhesive of claim 6 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide is t-octyl acrylamide.

5 8. The adhesive of claim 1 further comprising a therapeutic agent.

9. The adhesive of claim 8 wherein the therapeutic agent is a pharmacologically active agent.

10 10. A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 8.

11. The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 wherein the adhesive serves as a carrier for the therapeutic agent.

15 12. The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 comprising an adhesive layer, and a backing layer.

20 13. The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 further comprising a release layer.

25 14. A method of administering a therapeutic agent to a patient comprising applying to a body surface of a patient a transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 1 and a therapeutic agent.